



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CONSTRUCTION CODES COORDINATING BOARD**

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**CONSTRUCTION CODES COORDINATING BOARD  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, February 10, 2020  
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Washington, DC 20024  
1:00-3:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Board Members Not Present</b>	<b>Board Staff Present</b>	<b>Other Persons Present</b>
Jill Stern, Chair	Casey Studhalter		John Catlett, AOBA (by phone)
Marc Fetterman, Vice Chair			Randi Marshall, AOBA
Chris Bailey			James Santos, Dreyfuss Management
Matthew Borger			Raj Setty
Joel Causey (by phone)			Jeff Terrey, Rasky Partners. Fire Extinguisher Manufacturers Association
Tony Falwell			Jim Tidwell, Tidwell Code Consulting, Fire Extinguisher Manufacturers Association
Kellie Farster (by phone)			Nicola Whiteman, AOBA
Garret Whitescarver			
Jason Wright			

**1. Preliminary Matters**

**i Call to Order and Roll Call**

Upon establishing a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Jill Stern, Chair, at 1:20 pm with a roll call of members and other persons present.

**ii Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved upon motion made by Matthew Borger and seconded by Jason Wright.

**iii Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for the Thursday, January 16, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon motion made by Garret Whitescarver and seconded by Tony Falwell.

**2. 2017 District of Columbia Construction Codes**



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Jill Stern advised the Board that the Council Approval Resolution Package for the 2017 District of Columbia Construction Codes was received by the DC Council on January 29, 2020, and will be deemed approved on April 9, 2020. She also noted that the NPRM (with the proposed amendments to the 2017 Construction Codes) had been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for legal sufficiency review.

### 3. Introduction of New Code Change Proposals

The following new code change proposal was introduced.

Residential Code	Code/Section	Introduced	Procedural History	CCCB Action 2.10.20
RC-CCCB-24-1-17	2017 DC Residential Code/G2411 & Chapter 44	2.10.10		Introduced

### 4. Consideration of Previously Introduced Code Change Proposals

The following actions were taken by the Board. All actions were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Building Code	Section	Introduced	Procedural History	CCCB Action 2.10.20
BC-FLS-9-1-17	2017 DC Building Code/906.1	1.16.20		Approved Wright (M), Whitescarver (S)
Electrical Code	Section	Introduced	Procedural History	CCCB Action 2.10.20
ElecC-CCCB- 6-1-17	2017 DC Electrical Code/Articles 690, 691	10.17.19	Referred to Electrical TAG; deferred 11.21.19; Revised 2.10.20	Approved Whitescarver (M), Causey (S)
Fire Code	Code/Section	Introduced	Procedural History	CCCB Action 2.10.20
FC-FLS-9-1-17 (previously introduced as FC-CCCB-9-1-17)	2017 DC Fire Code/906.1	10.17.19	Referred to Fire TAG; deferred 11.21.19; revised by TAG 1.16.20	Approved Falwell (M), Wright (S)

Prior to voting on the portable fire extinguisher amendments, Nicola Whiteman expressed AOBA's concerns that proposed changes to the Building and Fire Codes would increase the burden on building owners to install portable fire extinguishers, even in sprinklered buildings. Marc Fetterman addressed the issue in the Building Code by pointing out that the changes proposed by the Fire TAG conform DC's Section 906.1 to the 2018 model codes. Section 906.1, item 1, specifies occupancies where portable fire extinguishers are to be installed, and offers two exceptions to specific occupancies. These exceptions apply to NFPA 10, cited in Section 906.2. NFPA 10 is used to establish portable fire



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extinguisher locations, based on the hazard of the occupancy. He noted that these requirements will pose additional burdens on Use Group E to those currently required in 2013 12 DCMR. Portable fire extinguishers continue to be required in R-2 occupancies and this requirement can be met by placing them in hallways or other locations that meet the maximum travel distance specified in NFPA 10, except where more stringent requirements are imposed for hazardous and other uses specified in items 2- 6 of Section 906.1. Other Board members concurred with Marc Fetterman's interpretation. Based on this interpretation, the AOBA representatives did not express further objections.

With respect to the Fire Code proposal to conform the DC requirement to the 2018 Fire Code Section 906.1, AOBA proposed to continue language in the existing amendment in 2013 12 DCMR to require portable fire extinguishers in existing buildings or spaces to meet the requirements of the code under which the existing building or space was permitted. Following a discussion, the Board consensus was that this proposed modification would be of little benefit to owners and it placed a burden on enforcement staff to figure out the building's permitting history.

After the discussion of the Section 906.1 code change proposals, which also included remarks by Jim Tidwell of the Fire Extinguisher Manufacturers Association on the history of the portable fire extinguisher requirement, the Board unanimously approved the proposed amendments upon motions duly made and seconded.

## **5. Administrative Matters**

Jill Stern advised the Board that she had drafted proposed CCCB testimony for the DCRA Performance Oversight Hearing on March 5, 2020, and that she planned to speak further with DCRA's legislative team about the CCCB participation before circulating proposed testimony to the CCCB. In preparing this draft testimony, she indicated that she had spoken with the Director of the Virginia State Building Codes Office to get information on its staffing budget. The Virginia budget of approximately \$1M over the 3-year code cycle, includes both the code development and training functions related to adoption of a new code. In addition to the State-level code development and training functions, local jurisdictions can adopt amendments, and this code development activity is typically handled by the local building code official and his or her staff.

Jill Stern updated the Board on her discussions with DCRA and the ICC relating to online publication of the integrated 2017 Construction Codes. As of now, DCRA has funding to publish and post online the integrated Green Building and Energy Codes, with a possibility that there may be funding available in the next fiscal year to make other integrated codes available online. Board members spoke in support of online publication of other integrated codes, particularly the Property Maintenance Code, to facilitate reference to these codes by non-professionals. Nicola Whiteman indicated that AOBA might be willing to subsidize online publication of other 2017 DC Construction Codes given the usefulness of the integrated codes to its members. Jill Stern proposed to follow up with AOBA to see what could be accomplished.

Garret Whitescarver advised that copies of the 2018 I-Codes had been purchased by DCRA for the Board members, and could be obtained through Chris Bailey. It was agreed that, even if the Board decides to jump to the 2021 I-Codes, review of the 2018 I-Codes will be necessary to identify significant changes between 2015 and 2018.

Due to the lack of pressing matters, it was agreed that the February 20, 2020 Regular Meeting would be cancelled, and a Special Meeting of the CCCB scheduled for the first week of March if and as needed.

## **6. Comments by Members of the Public**



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Except for comments by Nicola Whiteman and Jim Tidwell, as noted above, no members of the public participated in the meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020.